

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

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S E C R E T SECTION TWO OF TWO ALEXANDRIA 00043

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

6. FAHMY THEN WENT THROUGH THE AGREEMENT, HE DELETED SOME ITEMS AND MADE SOME ADDITIONS. FOR PURPOSES OF SIMPLICITY, THE TEXT OF HIS REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT, TOGETHER WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES, FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, FAHMY'S REVISIONS FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT WE NEED. WE WENT ROUND AND ROUND ON SOME POINTS, BUT FAHMY WOULD NOT BUDGE. HE CLAIMED THAT IF OUR DRAFT AGREEMENT WERE PRESENTED TO SADAT, THE PRESIDENT WOULD TEAR IT APART. HE HAS GIVEN AS MUCH AS HE CAN.

7. WE THEN TURNED TO THE BOYCOTT, HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL WAREFARE. I POINTED OUT THAT HIS STATEMENT OF LAST NIGHT LIMITING ACTION ON THE BOYCOTT TO FORD WAS LESS THAN HE HAD AGREED UPON AT SALZBURG. HE AGREED, BUT SAID THIS HAD BEEN HIS ERROR. HE STOOD BY HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT TO LIFT THE BOYCOTT ON A SELECTIVE BASIS ON AMERICAN FIRMS WHO WOULD DO SIGNIFICANT BUSINESS IN EGYPT. THESE WOULD INITIALLY INCLUDE FORD, XEROX AND COCO-COLA. AFTERWARD OTHERS MIGHT BE INCLUDED, DEPENDING ON WHAT THEY COULD DO FOR EGYPT. I STRESSED THAT WE NEED SOMETHING IN WRITING ON THIS POINT. HE INITIALLY REFUSED, ARGUING THIS IS POLITICAL DYNAMITE. EGYPT CANNOT UNILATERALLY LIFT THE BOYCOTT; IT CAN ONLY QUIETLY IGNORE IT, BUT IT CANNOT OPENLY FLAUNT IT. ANYTHING WE GIVE THE ISRAELIS WILL LEAK. AFTER FURTHER URGING, HE FINALLY AGREED TO GIVE US A LETTER USING WHATEVER WORDING WE WISH, SO LONG AS IT IS CONSISTENT WITH HIS CRITERIA OF (A) SELECTIVE BASIS

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(B) AMERICAN FIRMS AND (C) THEY MUST DO "BIG, SERIOUS

BUSINESS" WHICH HELPS THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. HIS OTHER CONDITION WAS THAT THE LETTER SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SHOWN TO THE ISRAELIS. HIS LEGAL ADVISER OSMAN POINTED OUT THAT FAHMY, IN SIGNING ANY SUCH A DOCUMENT, IS VIOLATING EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC LAW AND COULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. NEVERTHELESS, FAHMY AGREED TO GIVE SUCH A LETTER, PROVIDED IT DOES NOT GO BEYOND WHAT HE PREVIOUSLY SAID. HE SPECIFICALLY RECALLED OUR EFFORTS OF THE OTHER DAY TO GET NON-AMERICAN FIRMS INCLUDED AND INSISTED THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME. HE SAID IT MIGHT IN DUE COURSE BE POSSIBLE TO LIFT THE BOYCOTT ON SOME FRENCH FIRMS, BUT NOT NOW.

8 . I THEN PRESSED HIN FOR ORAL FORMULATIONS ON HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL WARFARE. HE SCOFFED AT THE TERM "ORAL FORMULATIONS", CLAIMING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE. I TOLD HIM HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD IN MIND. I SAID THESE COULD BE WRITTEN DOWN, BUT COULD BE UNSIGNED. BY THIS TIME, TWO AND A HALF HOURS HAD PASSED AND FAHMY WAS GETTING ALITTLE TIRED OF IT ALL. HE GOT UP TO LEAVE AND WHEN LEAVING SAID HE WILL GIVE ORAL FORMULATIONS ON THESE POINTS IF A) WE DO NOT CHANGE ANYTHING IN HIS REVISED AGREEMENT TEXT, AND B) IF GAMASY SAYS HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE MAP.

9. FAHMY ALSO STRESSED THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ON THE POINTS MENTIONED IN THE TWO PAPERS WHICH HE GAVE US THIS MORNING. (JOE SISCO HAS THEM.) THERE WAS NO TIME LEFT TO TACKLE HIM ABOUT THE LETTER ON SYRIA, BUT PERHAPS I WILL HAVE TIME TOMORROW AFTER I HAVE TAKEN CODEL OBEY TO SEE HIM.

10.COMMENT: FAHMY'S REACTION WAS PREDICTABLE, BUT NOT VERY HELPFUL. AS THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR EGYPTIAN FOREIGN POLICY, HE IS KEENLY CONSCIOUS THAT THE PUBLIC TENDS TO HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL ACTIONS, INCLUDING CONCESSIONS. HE IS THUS PERSONALLY VULNERABLE. I SENSED THAT HE WANTS TO PROTECT HIMSELF IN THE UPCOMING ERA WHEN THE CRITICISMS MAY BECOME INTENSE. HE CONSIDERS THE AGREEMENT A POOR ONE AND FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED SKEPTISM THAT WE COULD NOT DO MORE. HE INSISTS SADAT'S REACTION TO OUR DOCUMENT WILL BE STRONGLY NEGATIVE, BUT SOMETIMES ALSO ADDS THAT IF SADAT WILL AGREE TO SOMETHING, HE WILL CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS. IN SHORT, I THINK HE WANTS SADAT TO SAY HOW MUCH MORE
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THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO DO IN THE NATURE OF POLITICAL CONCESSIONS RATHER THAN TAKE ANY INITIATIVE ON HIS OWN. I TOLD HIM THAT WE WOULD SURELY HAVE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS AGAIN AND THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I DID NOT THINK OUR SESSION HAD HELPED A GREAT DEAL TO FURTHER THE NEGOTIATIONS. BEING THE MAN HE IS, FAHMY RESPONDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, HE HAD JUST CONTRIBUTED MATERIALLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS SURE YOU WOULD RECOGNIZE THIS. THE ISRAELIS AND WE SHOULD REALIZE THAT EGYPT HAS GONE

AS FAR AS IT CAN IN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AND NOT TRY TO BE
"CUTE OR LEGALISTIC". HE REITERATED THAT HE WILL HONOR EVERYTHING
PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON AT ASWAN AND SALZBURG.
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